

REMARKS

Summary

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 55-82 are pending in the application, with Claims 55, 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78 being independent. Claims 55, 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Examiner Telephone Conversation Summary

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephone conversation about this case conducted on January 18, 2006 with the undersigned. In the telephone conversation, the formal objection to the February 13, 2006 Amendment, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101, §112, first and second paragraphs, and § 103 were discussed. The Examiner agreed in principle to withdraw the objection and rejections if the application is amended as it is being done in this Amendment and if Applicant specifies the support in the specification for the objected to elements as it is being provided in the remarks below.

Title Objection

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive of the claimed invention. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicant has amended the title to address the points raised by the Examiner. Applicant submits that as amended, the title is now even more clearly indicative of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Objection to February 13, 2006 Amendment

The February 13, 2006 Amendment is objected to as introducing new matter into the specification. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, the specification has been amended to restore the original language in the paragraph starting at page 3, line 5 of the specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Formal Rejections

Claims 71-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because the claimed invention is directed to a non-statutory subject matter. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, these claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action and in the January 18, 2006 telephone conversation, thereby obviating the objection. In addition, Applicant submits that as amended, these claims now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 55, 56, 63, 64, 71, 72, 75, and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because the discriminating recited in these claims is allegedly not disclosed in the specification. In response, Applicant submits that the discriminating recited in the claims relates to the discriminating operations disclosed in Figures 17 and 18, and more specifically at steps S1705 and S1806 shown in these figures and discussed at least at pages 36 and 40 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims satisfy the written description requirement. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because it is allegedly not clear what elements described in the specification correspond to the elements recited at lines 7-9 of Claim 55 and lines 4-6 of Claim 56. In response, Applicant notes that the first discrimination means recited at lines 7-9 of Claim 55 corresponds, but is not limited to, the API 1518 disclosed in Figures 2, 16, and 18. In addition, the first authentication input means recited at lines 3-5 of Claim 56 corresponds, but is not limited to, the API 1518, and the second authentication input means recited at lines 6 and 7 of Claim 56 corresponds, but is not limited to, the operation unit 2012 and the I/F 2006 shown on Figure 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Substantive Rejection

Claims 55-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 55, 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78 have been amended.

Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

According to one aspect, the present invention is directed to a device, method, and program that can perform an adjustment process between remote control and local control of an image processing device. More specifically, the present invention can prevent conflicting settings from being inputted into an image processing apparatus at two different locations, e.g., by a user inputting a specific setting into a control panel of the image processing device itself, and by a remote user accessing the image processing device over a network from an information processing device remote from the image processing device. The types of settings can include, but are not limited to settings related to managing: the paper size; document information stored in the device; email address information stored in the device; counter information stored in the device; manager passwords; printing limits for different divisions sharing the device; etc., as discussed at page 20, lines 20-25, page 34, lines 20-26, page 37, lines 10-20, and page 41, lines 15-20 of the specification. A conflict between settings can arise because the two users are not in the same location, and therefore, they may not be aware that the other user is inputting a conflicting setting. The present invention can solve this problem by making various adjustments between remote and local control of the image processing device.

The cited Chan et al. patent is understood to merely relate to a conventional method of authenticating various users. Thus, this patent is understood to disclose a secure printer

that when a card with a user ID is inserted into its card reader, sends the ID to a print server for authentication and receives a document intended for the user and prints the document.

The independent claims of the present application also recite an authentication process. But, in addition, they recite structure or steps that mediate control of an image processing device between the device itself and an information processing device that can operate the image processing device. And, the independent claims have been amended to make clear that the functions that are managed are different than the authentication process.

Thus, the independent claims are patentably distinct from the Chan et al. patent because they recite an additional type of control not understood to be disclosed or suggested by this patent.

For example, independent Claim 55, in addition to reciting first and second authentication processing means, recites first discrimination means for discriminating whether an operation unit of an image processing device is setting a first function of the image processing device, and second discrimination means for discriminating whether an information processing device is setting a second function of the image processing device. When a request from the operation unit of the image processing device is recognized based on the authentication result by the second authentication processing means and based on a result by the second discrimination means, the image processing device becomes operable by the operation unit.

Claim 55 has been amended to recite that the first function and the second function are different than the authenticating processes performed by the first and second authentication processing means. Thus, the discriminating recited by Claim 55 cannot read on the authentication processes disclosed in the Chan et al. patent. As a result, the Chan et al. patent is not understood to disclose or suggest all the claimed features recited by

amended Claim 55. Accordingly, the Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 55, since MPEP § 2142 requires the cited art to disclose or suggest all the claimed features to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 55 be withdrawn.

Since the other independent claims, Claims 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78, have also been amended to make clear that the types of operations and functions that are set, requested to be set, and requested to be performed are different from any claimed authentication process, these claims are allowable over the Chan et al. patent for reasons similar to Claim 55. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent Claims 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78 also be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

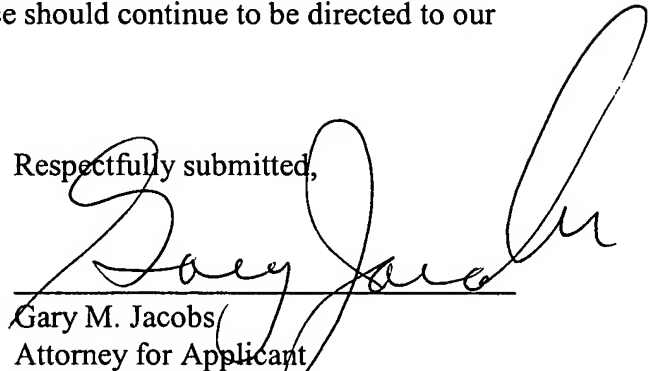
Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered. This Amendment was not presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form and entry of this Amendment is considered proper. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ:gbm

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